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Crime prevention and criminal justice

Letter dated 26 September 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith, on behalf of the 22 United Nations Member States that constitute the Group of Friends United against Human Trafficking, Bahrain, Belarus, Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Ecuador, Egypt, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Libya, Nicaragua, Nigeria, the Philippines, Qatar, the Russian Federation, Singapore, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, the United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), the Declaration on the Global Efforts to Combat Trafficking in Persons, which was adopted at the Fourth Ministerial Meeting of the Group of Friends, convened on 26 September 2013 on the margins of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly (see annex).

It would be appreciated if you could have the present letter and the annex thereto circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 108.

(*Signed*) Andrei **Dapkiunas**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Belarus to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 26 September 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Declaration on the Global Efforts to Combat Trafficking in Persons

We, the members of the Group of Friends United against Human Trafficking, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Bahrain, the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Republic of Belarus, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the Republic of Ecuador, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Republic of India, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Libya, Nicaragua, the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Republic of the Philippines, the State of Qatar, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Singapore, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, the United Arab Emirates, the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, having met on 26 September 2013 on the margins of the sixty-eighth session of the United Nations General Assembly, in New York,

1. Reaffirm the previous Declarations of the Group of Friends United against Human Trafficking, adopted at the ministerial meetings in 2010, 2011 and 2012;

2. Reaffirm the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, which, inter alia, committed to promoting comprehensive, coordinated and consistent responses at the national, regional and international levels to counter trafficking in persons, and also reaffirm our full adherence to its comprehensive implementation;

3. Welcome the outcome of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly held during its sixty-seventh session from 13 to 15 May 2013 to appraise the progress achieved in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action that, inter alia, evinced strong political will to step up efforts against trafficking in persons;

4. Invite the General Assembly to schedule the next appraisal of the implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action for its seventy-first session;

5. Express support for the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) as coordinator of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT);

6. Encourage UNODC and other ICAT members to strengthen, in line with their existing mandates, the implementation of the Global Plan of Action, and in this regard invite UNODC and other ICAT members, in cooperation with United Nations Member States, to elaborate and present in an appropriate manner to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session the list of concrete measures planned by ICAT until 2016 aimed at implementing the Global Plan of Action;

7. Recognize the importance of better international coordination and information exchanges on good practices to address the problem of trafficking in persons;

8. Welcome the outcome of the workshop on law enforcement aspects of combating human trafficking that took place on 29 and 30 May 2013 in Minsk (Belarus), and express the hope that the practice of holding such events will

continue, thus contributing positively to the implementation of the Global Plan of Action;

9. Reaffirm the importance of humanitarian, legal and financial aid to victims of trafficking in persons, including through the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, established in compliance with the Global Plan of Action, and encourage United Nations Member States, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and individuals to continue to provide financial support to the Trust Fund;

10. Decide to convene the fifth ministerial meeting of the Group of Friends United against Human Trafficking on the margins of the seventieth session of the General Assembly.

New York, 26 September 2013